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# DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



This will be my final devotion as Pastoral Advisor for I.L.D.A.. I have enjoyed working the members of I.L.D.A. for the past four years and I have enjoyed writing these devotions for the Deaf Lutheran. Now is the time to pass on the responsibility to someone else. You will be electing a new Pastor Advisor at the Cleveland Convention. May the Lord bless your decision.



Rev. Donald Leber, ILDA Pastoral Advisor

CHRIST IS RISEN

I would like to leave you with the words of **Revelation 22:18-22** ...

"I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

In our world today we must be careful about people that want to lie to us and try to take away the faith that God the Holy Spirit has given to us in our Baptism. As Lutheran Christian people you must be able to know which people are speaking the truth and which people are not. The only way that I know that you can do that is for you to be studying the Bible with fellow members of your church. There are some groups that call themselves Christian and maybe even act a little holy in their lifestyle, but they have added to the words of prophecy in God's Book and tell you that there is more that you need to do yourself to get to heaven. Then there are those groups of people that will tell you that you can do anything you want because God will always forgive you, and they are the ones taking away the words of the prophecy in God's Book. PLEASE don't listen to those people; listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to you directly through the word of God as you pray and study that word together with your fellow believers in Christ. Notice the words of warning in Revelation that anyone who listens and follows these false teachers will NOT share in the tree of life and



in the holy city (that means heaven). Finally we all join together in that wonderful prayer of John *"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."* When Jesus comes again with all the heavenly hosts and brings us to heaven, then I will be there with you because we have keep the faith that was given to us by our loving God and Father through the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you always. *Amen*!

### The Uriel C. Jones Memorial Right Hand Award "Don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." Matt. 6:33

### **Attention:**

All the members and pastors of International Lutheran Deaf Association.

Greetings in the name of our wonderful Lord who loves you all. Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and from Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As you all know that I already sent out to all churches of the Deaf and congregations regarding the Uriel C. Jones Memorial Right Hand Award to be voted as one of the outstanding persons.

In your church or congregation, have you voted any one who is qualified to be chosen fro the award this year?

At present I have already received only three persons to be voted. So if you have anyone in your mind, you feel should be qualified, please send the list of names to me as soon as possible.

Thank you! God bless you all. Will be looking forward seeing you all at the ILDA Convention in June at Independence, Ohio.

Donald Mowl, 1684 E. Maiden St., Washington, PA 15301 Right Hand Award Chairman FAX 724-225-5666





Chapel for the Deaf has a new web site. Check it out at: http://www.hows.net/ 228204cftd. It's simple and cheap (as in free). *Pastor Michael MacDonald* 

# Special Request from Jennifer...

It would be great if any Deaf church, group, or individual could donate some small gifts and **bring them to the ILDA convention** so I could pack them up in my suitcase and bring them back to Macau to give to the Deaf children at the Concordia school.

The gifts do not have to be really special, just pencils with a hometown name, or crosses on necklaces or bracelets, Christian stickers... Something that is very American and very Christian. There are limited Christian supplies here in Macau. It would be really nice if I could give the Deaf children something from all the Deaf Christians in America. Something to link the church with the school.

# **Tour Tour Tour...**

There are still seats left for the '99 Cleveland ILDA Tour! If you have decided that you still want to join the tour group, be sure that you bring \$55.00 with you when you come to Cleveland and sign up at the tour desk during registration.

# **Right Hand Award...**

Donald Mowl requested that all names not already submitted, to be sent to him ASAP (as-soon-as-possible). He need to prepare for the Cleveland ILDA '99 Convention. FAX names to Don (Pittsburgh, PA) at 724-225-5666.



# Banquet Entertainment...

The Ashland Deaf Bible Class will entertain during '99 Cleveland ILDA Banquet. The group, whose core Deaf members included Mike and Cathy Alznauer, Jeff and Treva Baker, and Doug and Cathy Smart, recognized the benefit of ministering to the Deaf community through drama and sign.

*₩HY***?**\_

Many people wonder why Jesus, the Son of God, had to die. **DO YOU?** 

Paul wrote the answer in his letter to the church in Rome. Decipher the code to find out what it was. (*Hint:* A = 26 and Z = 1).

4/22 4/22/9/22 20/12/23/8 22/13/22/14/18/22/8, 25/6/7 19/22 14/26/23/22 6/8 19/18/8 21/9/18/22/13/23/8 7/19/9/12/6/20/19 7/19/22 23/22/26/7/19 12/21 19/18/8 8/12/13.

### Ordination and Installation of Rev. David S. Neilsen as Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Rev. David Nielsen and his wife Jean, daughters Marisa and Erika, and son Thomas arrived in British Columbia on February 4, 1999. The following week the moving van brought their goods across the border and to the house the congregation had rented for them in Surrey, BC.

On Sunday, February 21, 1999 Rev. David Nielsen was ordained and installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Vancouver, BC. Participating in the service were 18 pastors and over 100 lay people. The deaf churches and community were represented by Pastors Roger Blesi and William Ludwig of Seattle, and Rev. Wayne Bottlinger, Pastor Emeritus in Vancouver. Pastors from the Vancouver area represented the English, Hispanic, Chinese Mandarin and Cantonese, and Korean ministries. Lay people, both deaf and hearing, from the various ethnic backgrounds were present. Four deaf-blind members were in attendance.

Rev. Harold Ruf, president of the Alberta-British Columbia District, delivered the sermon. The choirs of Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf and Prince of Peace Lutheran (Chinese) signed and sing the hymn selections. The ladies of Trinity Lutheran-Deaf hosted a reception for Pastor Nielsen and his family after the service. What a glorious day it was for Trinity-Deaf in Vancouver!

Submitted by Rev. Wayne Bottlinger





### News from Pacific Region... around the **Regions...**







Happy Mother's Day May 9th, 1999



Happy Father's Day June 20th, 1999

Lutheran Deaf Ministry, LA California... Lutheran Deaf Camp on July 25-30, 1999. Contact Pastor Leber. Cruise to Bermuda on August 27 - September 3, 2000. Contact Pastor Leber (909) 987-5484 V/TTY/FAX or see his booth at ILDA Cleveland '99 for details.

#### Midwest Region...

Bob Dunnington of ILDA's Midwest Region has instantly entered God's Kingdom on March 31st. ILDA and Deaf Lutheran's sympathy goes to Ileen and family.

Midwest ILDA will be held at Best Western Starlite Village Motel, Ankeny, Iowa on June 4-6, 1999. Theme: "What Would Jesus Do" (Walk With Jesus Daily).

Lutheran Deaf Ministries, Omaha, NE... 50th Wedding Anniversary for Don & June Collamore was held on March 14th.

**F.R.E.E. Family Camp** (F-families, R-renewed, E-energized, and E-encouraged) for families with deaf children at Timberlake Ranch Camps, Marquette, NE on August 4-6, 1999. Contact Pat Monroe at 402-397-9443v/TTY or by e-mail: prmonroe@juno.com.

Pastor Kois is now working as a MAL (Missionary At Large) for the Iowa District West.

#### Central Region...

Peace Lutheran Church, Indianapolis... is working hard to prepare for ILDA 2001 Convention! Winona Alter is Chairperson.

### Dixie Region...

Jesus Lutheran Chruch, Austin, TX... Cathy Ann Christ went to her external rest on January 16th. Jeffery McGuire and Richard Norton are accepted into the Deaf Institute of Theology.

#### **Great Lakes Region...**

Winter Camp in Mansfield, Ohio on February 19-21 was awesome! The worship, devotions, and Bible studies were given by Pastors Lawson, Bergstresser and Petzoldt.

Christ Lutheran, Cleveland... Brother **James Dickerson** was called from this life to his eternal home on April 16th.

#### Eastern Region...

Chapel for the Deaf Lutheran, Charlotte, NC... Pastor Michael MacDonald was commissioned as a Stephen Minister on March 7th. Stephen Minister are pastors and church members who make a two year committment to provide one-on-one Christian caring ministry to persons in need. Pastor MacDonald can share with you more information about this.

**Pray for those Deaf Lutheran churches** without Pastors: John of Berverly Lutheran Chapel in Dallas, TX; Holy Cross in Delavan, WI; and St. Matthews and St. Marks in New York City area.



Aaron and Pastor Ed Bergstresser clown around in the Cafeteria during Winter Camp in Mansfield, Ohio. Also Mark Ginter in lower right corner!



# **Funeral Arrangements Before You Need Them!**

If you have ever had to plan for a funeral and burial after a loved one has died, you know the difficulty of getting everything in order in a limited amount of time. You are so very busy during a time when you are filled with grief, it sometimes seems like you won't have the time nor the strength to get everything done. Funeral arrangements can be made before you die. If you make your own arrangements while you are still living, you will be sure everything will be done the way you want it to be done. Your favorite songs and Bible verses will be used at the service. The right casket will be purchased (or leased if you plan on cremation). Your loved ones won't be talked into buying a more expensive one than you want. Many people don't like to think about their own death or the death of a loved one. but we all will die. It's much better to be prepared ahead of time so you won't be a burden on the ones you love while they are grieving over your death.

Pastor Seeger (MarkJLCD@aol.com) can give you more information.



### NOTAM! Deaf Pilots and Pilot Pastors

### Interesting Facts About Deaf Did You Know...?

Stop

and consider the wondrous works of God. -Job 37:14 We have deaf pilots in our central Illinois area. Are any of you deaf readers pilots? One deaf pilot who landed here wrote a book. I am a long time Lutheran Pastor serving deaf people, especially deaf kids, and I have an active private pilot's license. I was told there might be other pilots among our deaf readers. If you are deaf, or are a pastor serving deaf, **then write me a not to my address:** *Pastor Paul H. Dorr, 104 Finley Street, Jacksonville, IL 62650-1720.* 

Editor's note: It was interesting to know what NOTAM mean. It is an official word used everwhere in aviation to <u>alert</u> aviators. NOTAM mean "<u>Note to Airmen.</u>"

There are approximately 22 million hearingimparied persons in the U.S. Deaf people have safer driving records than hearing people nationally.

The huddle formation used by football teams orginated at Gallaudet University, a liberal arts college for deaf people in Washington, D.C., to prevent other schools from reading their sign language.

The man who invented shorthand, John Gregg, was deaf.

Carl Anderson, a deaf cartoonist, is the creator of "Henry".

A deaf center-fielder for the Cincinnati Reds, William Hoy, invented the hand signals for strikes and balls in baseball.

Phyllis Frelich won the Tony Award for Best Actress of 1980 in the Broadway play "Children of a Lessor God". Ms. Frelich is profoundly deaf.

Two of the Osmond brothers and Nanette Fabray all have hearing impairments. When Beethoven created his ninth symphony, he was profoundly deaf.

Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, was originally an instructor for deaf children and invented the telephone to help his deaf wife and mother to hear.

Scuba drivers often use sign language under water. Deaf people can sign/talk at great distances without the use of amplificiation through the use of sign language.

Deaf people have created a language known as American Sign Language which has been linguistically defined as a separate language such as English, French, and German.

### More notes from Pastor Dorr!

Since the 1890's the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has sent missionaries to teach the students at the only state residential school for deaf children in Illinois, (I.S.D.) Since the mid 1970's Synod placed deaf missions and ministries under their respective districts. (Sometimes a field overlaps district. For example, we serve the students for the Northern and Southern Illinois Districts, LC-MS.) We are the Lutheran ministry to deaf children from East St. Louis, Chicago, Carondale, East Moline, and all Illinois children of various races, and backgrounds. We have also been asked to serve deaf college students near East St. Louis. Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf (Jacksonville, Illinois) is subsidized by our Central Illinois Lutheran congregations, and is deliberately located across the street from the state school to be our district's mission base to the deaf students. Pastor Paul H. Dorr, Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, 104 Finley Street, Jacksonville, IL 62650-1720. 217-243-2528

## 30 Days in Feb, 2000?

Hey readers! How true is this?? The Year 2000. This is a news article from today's gulf news. February 2000 will have 30 days!!

There are some number of seconds that are accumulated every day which make up to become an extra day once in every four years and that is why we have the leap year. In the same manner there are some number of seconds which are accumulated from the leap years which form to become an extra day once in every 400 years and that is why in the year 2000 there will be 30th day in February, 2000.

So the child born on that day will never be able to celebrate his/her birthday until February 30, 2400. (If he/she could live 400 years!)

The computer industry are talking about Y2K problem and now with the February 30th problem, all the electronic products with calendars will be dumb. It is a new threat to the entire world.

What will we call the year when February has 30 days?!

#### via e-mail

Statistics prove that deaf people live longer than hearing people.

Some positions held by present-day deaf persons are: lawyers, dentists, doctors, chemists, inventors, artists, sculptors, writers, architects, poets, newspaper editors, clergy, actors, teachers, etc.

Deaf people develop keener senses of observation, feeling, taste and smell to compensate for their loss of hearing.

Deaf people appreciate advice or warnings regarding any noises that bother hearing people.

Deaf people vote, pay taxes, drive cars, attend business, social, and religious meetings.

# Bringing you Good News from Macau!

April, 1999

Hark the voice of Jesus calling, "Who will go and work today? Fields are white and harvests waiting, Who will bear the sheaves away?"

#### **Greetings!**

Amazing...I've already been here in Macau for seven months. It's very warm here-in the mid 70's. Flowers are blooming on the trees and people are starting to wear shorts again. Don't you Northerners wish that you were here? Easter is here and we can celebrate Jesus' resurrection!

#### What I've been doing:

I do much work with Rev. Thomas Dunseth at the Concordia School of Special Education and do outreach to the local deaf community. Here's what I do- religion classes at school, morning prayers and devotions, choir practice (doing the Easter play), deaf association and deaf bowling (so I can get to know the local deaf community and learn more signs), girls' group, student fellowship, and deaf adult Bible study.

The Deaf Bible study started last January and is on Sunday afternoons. We've had a good turn out, despite the differences in the deaf community. There's a division between groups just like in America. We plan to start a deaf worship on Easter Sunday with an interpreted service with the local Chinese community. This is a very exciting thing as the Deaf have not had an opportunity to worship together for a long time.

We are all doing mission work. Some of us need to plant, fertilize, water, or tend the harvest. "Maybe not bring in the crop, but we need to be out in the fields sowing the seed. The Holy Spirit will see to the rest." Many souls are out there ready to hear about Jesus and His love! You sent me here with your support, I am now here doing the work. And I must tell you I love it.

#### **Concordia School of Special Education:**

Last December, I noticed that the school didn't even have a nativity. I thought a good Christmas gift from all of you who supported me would be a new nativity. So, I bought a beautiful nativity set and presented it on the behalf of the Lutheran Deaf churches. They were very thankful.

I feel that it's very important to work in the school because it's the time when we can teach the students with prayer and religion classes. Once they graduate, they are out in the world. It's harder to find them and they are lost easily. Deaf teens at the school need a safe haven, to know that they have a Lord who loves and protects them. They need to see that they don't have to give into the bad influences and that they can take a stand for their faith.

#### The Deaf in Macau:

Family- I could observe that Diana (a good friend of mine has helped me out so much) had the same basic frustrations as many other deaf people with not being able to communicate with her family. Her family knows very little sign language and Diana is often left out. In China, it is a "shame" to have a deaf child. They are hidden in their homes and some don't start school until very late. There is very little education about the Deaf as compared to other countries.

Education- The education is very behind here. Students who go to Concordia school can graduate from Form 5 (12th grade). However, some decide to leave after Form 3 (10th grade). Those students don't realize the opportunity they have! This makes finding a job very difficult. They cannot get upscale jobs with good pay. One student just left school because she didn't feel like studying because she thought she could make more money. It really doesn't make any difference if she stays until Form 5, because then she'd make the same amount of money. Also, Diana is the first and only deaf student at the University of Macau, but has no interpreters.

Equipment/ accommodations- The deaf have fax machines, not TTY's. There are no closed captions for TVs or movies, but they are open captioned in Chinese. It doesn't help me out much since I don't read Chinese! Many don't have deaf alarmsthey depend on their own natural body clocks to wake up in the morning. Trust me, it does work for them. Few of them have flashing lights for doorbells, crying babies, and the phone. There is no local interpreting service- no interpreters are provided for any kind of need- doctor, job interview, or meetings. The deaf are not allowed to drive. Only hard-ofhearing persons can get a driver's license!

#### My plans:

I have made a decision to stay longer. I want to stay until just before Christmas in December. I have made much progress on learning the sign language and am more settled down. There is so much left to be done and adding a few more months wouldn't hurt.

I might be coming back to America this June. I want to attend the ILDA (International Lutheran Deaf Association) meeting in Ohio, as well as the Ephphatha Conference (for pastors to the Deaf) for a few days. I want to make several presentations and raise more support. I also want to look for new volunteers.

#### Do you want to help out?

Come to Macau as a volunteer! You've read all those wonderful things happening in Macau as a result of God's work. We desperately need two people to volunteer to come to Macau and continue the work. Is God leading you to serve? Do you know anyone who wants to serve?

We need to train certain deaf leaders to take up the leadership for an indefinite term. One such example is Diana, who has been baptized and will be confirmed this Easter! She is already doing so much with the Concordia students and is a blessing to the mission work here.

I also need more financial support if I am to stay longer. Please continue to send your support, both prayers and financially. There is always a need for more and it is a wonderful way for you to be involved in mission work.

#### Praise the Lord for:

- The deaf adult Bible study- Diana being confirmed- The Concordia students on a wonderful Easter performance

#### Please include in your prayers:

- Starting deaf worship services- More opportunities to meet new deaf people- Motivate Concordia students with a desire to learn more- My planning to return home this June for a month.

With many prayers and thanksgiving in Christ,

Jennifer Knaack Jknaack@macau.ctm.net Rua Henrique de Macedo Ma Pou Edif. 4-J MACAU Fax # - (853) 319 - 512

#### 

Yes, I would like to support Jennifer Knaack during her last 4 months in Macau.

Name	Gift: \$
Address:	
City:	State: Zip:

Make checks payable to: North Wisc. Dist. LCMS, PO Box 8064, Wausau, WI 54401-8064. Designate: Macau/Knaack

### **No Excuse Sunday: Dedicated to Missing Church Members!**

To make it possible for everyone to attend church next Sunday, we are going to have a special "No Excuse Sunday."

Cots will be placed in the fover for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep in."

There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel that our pews are too hard.

Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching TV late Saturday night.

We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof would cave in if lever came to church."

Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold and fansfor those who say it is too hot.

Scorecards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present.

Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can't go to churchand cook dinner, too.

We will distribute "Stamp Out Stewardship" buttons for those that feel the church is always asking for money.

One section will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to seek God in nature.

Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday.

The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who never have seen the church without them.

We will provide hearing aids for those who can't hear the preacher and cotton for those who can!

Hope to see you there!

-Source Unknown.

Rev. Warren J. Keating, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Yuma, AZ, says that the best prayer he ever heard was: "Lord, please make me the kind of person my dog thinks I am."

A Woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. "What Denomination?" Asked the clerk. "Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman. "Well give me 50 Baptist and 50 Catholic ones."

On a very cold, snowy Sunday in February, only the pastor and one farmer arrived at the village church. The pastor said, "Well, I guess we won't have a service today." The farmer replied: "Shucks, if even only one cow shows up at feeding time, I feed it."

During a children's sermon, Rev. Larry Eisenberg asked the children what "Amen" means. A little boy raised his hand and said: "It means - 'Tha-tha-that's all folks!'

I was at the beach with my children when my four-year-old son ran up to me, grabbed my hand, and led me to the shore, where a sea gull lay dead in the sand. "Mommy, what happened to him?" the little boy asked. "He died and went to Heaven," I replied. My son thought a moment and then said, "And God threw him back down?"

Bill Keane, creator of the Family Circus cartoon strip tells of a time when he was penciling one of his cartoons and his son Jeffy said, "Daddy, how do you know what to draw?" I said, "God tells me." Jeffy said, "Then why do you keep erasing parts of it?"

### **No Excuse, Pastor: Dedicated to the Fine Pastors of our World!**

There are many reasons why God would not want you, but don't worry.

You're in good company! Moses stuttered. David's armor didn't fit. John Mark was rejected by Paul. Hosea's wife was a prostitute. Amos' only training was in the school of fig-tree pruning. Jacob was a liar. David had an affair. Solomon was too rich. Abraham was too old. David was too young. Timothy had ulcers. Peter was afraid of death. Lazarus was dead. John was self-righteous. Jesus was too poor. Naomi was a widow. Paul was a murderer. So was Moses. Jonah ran from God. Miriam was a gossip. Gideon and Thomas both doubted. Jeremiah was depressed and suicidal. Elijah was burned out. John the Baptist was a loudmouth. Martha was a worrywart. Mary was lazy. Samson had long hair. Noah got drunk. Did I mention that Moses had a short fuse?

So did Peter, Paul+well, lots of folks did.

But God doesn't require a job interview. He doesn't hire and fire like most bosses, because He's more our Dad than our boss. He doesn't look at financial gain or loss. He's neither prejudiced nor partial, judging, grudging, sassy, nor brassy, not deaf to our cry, nor blind to our need.

Satan says, "You're not worthy." Jesus says, "So what? I AM."

Satan looks back and sees our mistakes. God looks back and sees the Cross.

Sure there are lots of reasons why God shouldn't want us. But if we are in love with Him, if we hunger for Him more than our next breath, He'll use us in spite of who we are, where we've been, or what we look like.

-Source Unknown

After the church service, a little boy told the pastor: "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money." "Well, thank you," the pastor replied, "but why?" "Because my daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."

My wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to our six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," she replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," my wife said. Our daughter bowed her head and said: "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Page 7

<b>God's 1000 Club</b> This Club is open to any member who wish to help with the operating expenses of the ILDA Board of Directors. Biannual dues are \$20 per person. Details about this club will be sent on request. Please make your check or money-order payable to: ILDA TREASURER Karen Beiter 7300 Briggs Rd. Lima NY 14485	For New Subscription Cut out and fill in this coupon, enclose your check or money order of \$7.50 for one year's subscription payable to <i>The Deaf Lutheran</i> and mail to: Larry D. Ginter D/L Business Manager 4134 Sarasota Drive Parma, OH 44134-6242	For Change of Address Fill in this clipping, attach your mailing label and mail to: Larry D. Ginter D/L Business Manager 4134 Sarasota Drive Parma, OH 44134-6242 		
Name	Name	Name       Address       City       State  Zip    Thank you.		
Let your light that they may see your good two is and give glory to your Tather in heaven. Matthew 5:16 xxx*				



e-mail: CreaBrowns@AOL.com

